(b) whether LIC is receiving complete annual premium from various companies; and

(c) if not, the action Government is taking against these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has informed that during the last five years it has invested in infrastructure development as under:—

Infrastructure Investments During

(Rs. in crore)

2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
6297.98	12042.86	11366.81	13850.84	17297.18

(b) There is no concept of annual premium on investment made in infrastructure development. However, the LIC is receiving interest dues from the companies and other state level entities in which investment/loan in infrastructure has been made during the last five years. However, in respect of investment/loans of earlier years there are overdues from a few State Electricity Boards, Municipalities and State Level Apex Co-operative Housing Societies.

(b) The LIC is following up with the various agencies for settlement of outstanding interest dues.

Concern over inflation rate

†2382. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rise in inflation rate in the country from April, 2004 for March, 2008 has been a matter of concern;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the rise in prices of eatables of daily use has been the main reasons for the rise in inflation rate; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The year-on-year inflation measured in terms of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for all commodities and for 30 essential commodities are indicated in Table 1.

Table 1: Year-on-year inflation in per cent for last 4 years

Months (Average of weeks)	Annual inflation(%) (All commodities)				Annual Inflation (%) (30 Essential commodities)			
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Apr.	4.5	5.9	3.9	6.3	4.5	4.4	5.9	3.3
May	5.0	5.5	4.7	5.5	4.9	3.3	7.6	1.7
Jun.	6.7	4.3	5.1	4.5	4.9	3.1	8.6	0.9

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Months (Average of weeks)	Annual inflation (%) (All commodities)				Annual Inflation (%) (30 Essential commodities)			
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Jul.	7.6	4.3	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.3	5.4	2.8
Aug.	8.5	3.7	5.1	4.1	4.8	4.2	5.3	2.7
Sep.	7.9	4.1	5.4	3.5	5.9	3.3	7.2	1.2
Oct.	7.3	4.7	5.5	3.1	5.3	4.0	7.7	0.6
Nov.	7.5	4.2	5.5	3.3	5.0	5.2	6.6	0.7
Dec.	6.8	4.4	5.7	3.8	5.3	4.6	6.4	1.3
Jan.	5.5	4.1	6.4	4.5	6.1	3.9	5.1	2.7
Feb.	5.0	4.0	6.4	4.6	3.9	5.1	4.2	2.9
Mar.	5.4	3.9	6.6	6.4	3.7	5.7	3.4	5.2

P: Provisional

(d) Containment of inflation remains high on the agenda of the Government. Anti-inflationary policies of the government include strict fiscal discipline, rationalization of duties of essential items, effective supply-demand management of essential commodities through liberal tariff and trade policies and procurement through public sector agencies. The Monetary policy of Reserve Bank of India, while being conducive to economic growth, has attempted to contain inflationary expectations arising out of uncertainties in domestic and international environment.

Farmers in clutches of money lenders

†2383. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated a draft of any scheme to bring out the farmers of the country, who are in debt, from the clutches of money lenders of private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether any committee has been set up to formulate the same; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Government of India had announced a Farm Credit Package on 18.06.2004 to double the farm credit in three years time and to mitigate the hardships being faced by the farming community of the country. The farm credit package, *inter alia,* included relief measures for farmers indebted to non-institutional lenders including money lenders by providing them loans from banks against appropriate collateral or group security.

(c) and (d) Considering the high indebetendness to money lenders as an important reason for the distress amongst farmers, the Reserve Bank, in May 2006, constituted a Technical

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.